



Maritime OPINTEL Report

**(U) SOMALIA: Piracy Analysis and Warning Weekly
(PAWW) Report
(Horn of Africa) for 09 Dec – 15 Dec 2010**

16 December 2010

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1. (U) Scope Note

(U) The Piracy Analysis and Warning Weekly (PAWW) Report is a review of recent Somali piracy incidents and an outlook on threats around the Horn of Africa.

2. (U) Piracy Events

(U) This section provides information on piracy events for this week in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.

A. (U) Summary

(U) After a lull last week with only one hijacking, pirates have been more active, particularly in the Arabian Sea where sea states have been more conducive to small boat activity.

B. (U) Details

(U) There were nine piracy incident in this period.

- **(U) Vessels Hijacked**

(U) INDIAN OCEAN: A bulk carrier (RENUAR) was hijacked 11 Dec 10 at 0540 UTC while underway in position 06:09N – 067:19E, approximately 360NM southwest of Minicoy Island. Pirates armed with guns and RPG in skiffs chased, fired upon, and boarded a bulk carrier underway. They took all 24 crewmembers hostage. (IMB)

(U) INDIAN OCEAN: A container ship (MSC PANAMA) was hijacked 10 Dec at 1212 UTC while underway in position 09:57S – 041:46E, approximately 240NM southeast of Dar es Salam, Tanzania. A container vessel was hijacked by armed pirates in two skiffs. All 23 crew members were taken hostage.

(IMB)

- **(U) Boardings** No incidents to report.
- **(U) Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boarding**

(U) INDIAN OCEAN: A bulk carrier (MICHALAKIS) was fired upon 15 Dec 10 at 0215 UTC while underway in position 12:09N – 060:23E, approximately 350NM east of Socotra Island. Two skiffs with four pirates armed with machine guns and RPG chased and fired upon a bulk carrier underway. Vessel enforced counter piracy measures resulting in the pirates aborting the attack. Vessel sustained some damage. (IMB, UKMTO)

(U) INDIAN OCEAN: A bulk carrier (MICHELE BOTTIGLIERI) was fired upon 14 Dec 10 at 0800 UTC while underway in position 18:15N – 061:37E, approximately 435NM northeast of Salalah, Oman. Pirates armed with guns and RPG in two skiffs chased and fired upon a bulk carrier underway. The ship was able to evade the attack due to preventive measures. (IMB, UKMTO)

(U) TANZANIA: A product tanker (SCF ALPINE) was fired upon 13 Dec 10 at 2200 UTC while underway in position 05:28S – 039:58E, approximately 10NM from Pemba Island. A product tanker underway spotted two skiffs at a distance of 6.5NM approaching her at high speed. The tanker increased speed, raised alarm, and instructed crew to muster in safe room except bridge crew and security team. Warship in vicinity informed. When the warship arrived at the location, the skiffs aborted the attack and returned to mother vessel. (IMB, Operator)

(U) GULF OF ADEN: A bulk carrier (LEMESHEV) reported an attempted boarding 13 Dec 10 at 1920 UTC while underway in position 13:52N – 051:07E, approximately 170NM southeast of Al Mukallah, Yemen. Three skiffs attempted to board the ship from the starboard and port sides. After two and a half hours, armed men abandoned attempt. No shots were fired. (Operator)

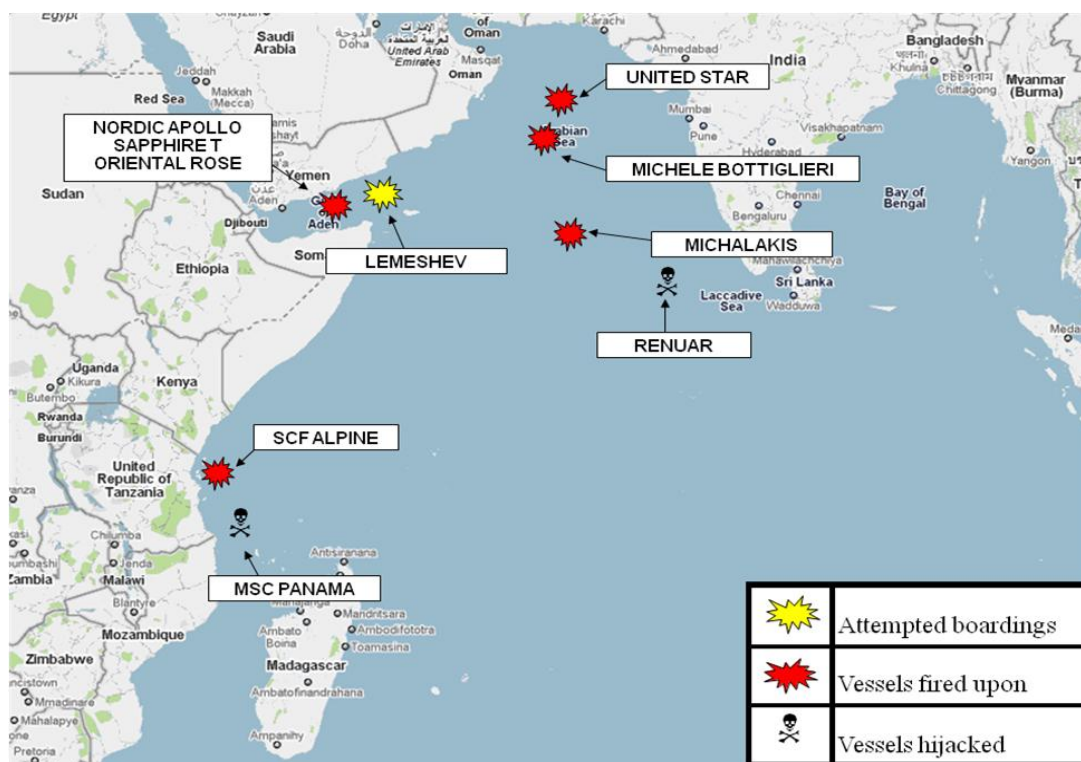
(U) GULF OF ADEN: A products tanker (ORIENTAL ROSE) was fired upon 13 Dec 10 after 1000 UTC while underway in Gulf of Aden. (Open Source)

(U) GULF OF ADEN: A tanker (SAPPHIRE T) was fired upon 13 Dec 10 at 1025 UTC while underway in the Gulf of Aden as part of Chinese Navy Convoy. Chinese ship launched helicopter and fired warning shots at skiff. Skiff abandoned attempt. (Operator)

(U) GULF OF ADEN: A tanker (NORDIC APOLLO) was fired upon 13 Dec 10 at 1000 UTC while underway in position 13:09N – 048:29E, approximately 90NM northwest of Al Mukallah, Yemen. Five pirates armed with guns and RPG in a skiff fired upon and attempted to board a tanker underway. One of the skiffs managed to come alongside the tanker, but due to the evasive maneuvers and increasing speed of ship, the boarding failed. The tanker was part of the Chinese Naval Convoy when attacked. (IMB, UKMTO)

(U) INDIAN OCEAN: A tanker (UNITED STAR) was fired upon 10 Dec at 1454 UTC while underway in position 20:55N – 062:47E, approximately 275NM SE of Muscat, Oman. Heavily armed pirates in two skiffs chased and fired upon a tanker underway. The tanker activated the SSAS alert, increased speed, made evasive maneuvers and managed to escape the attempted boarding. Tanker sustained some damage from the attack. (IMB)

C. (U) Incident Disposition



(U) Figure 1. HOA Pirate Activity, 09 DEC 2010 – 15 DEC 2010 (IMB).

(U) Figure 1 is a visual depiction of the incidents detailed in above summary of events.

C. (U) Tabulated Data

	This Week	Last Week	December 2010	November 2010	2010	2009*
Vessels Hijacked	2	1	3	4	44	52
Boarding	0	0	0	6	15	0
Vessels Fired Upon/ Attempted Boarding	8	0	8	35	120	131

*Dataset originates 22 May 2009

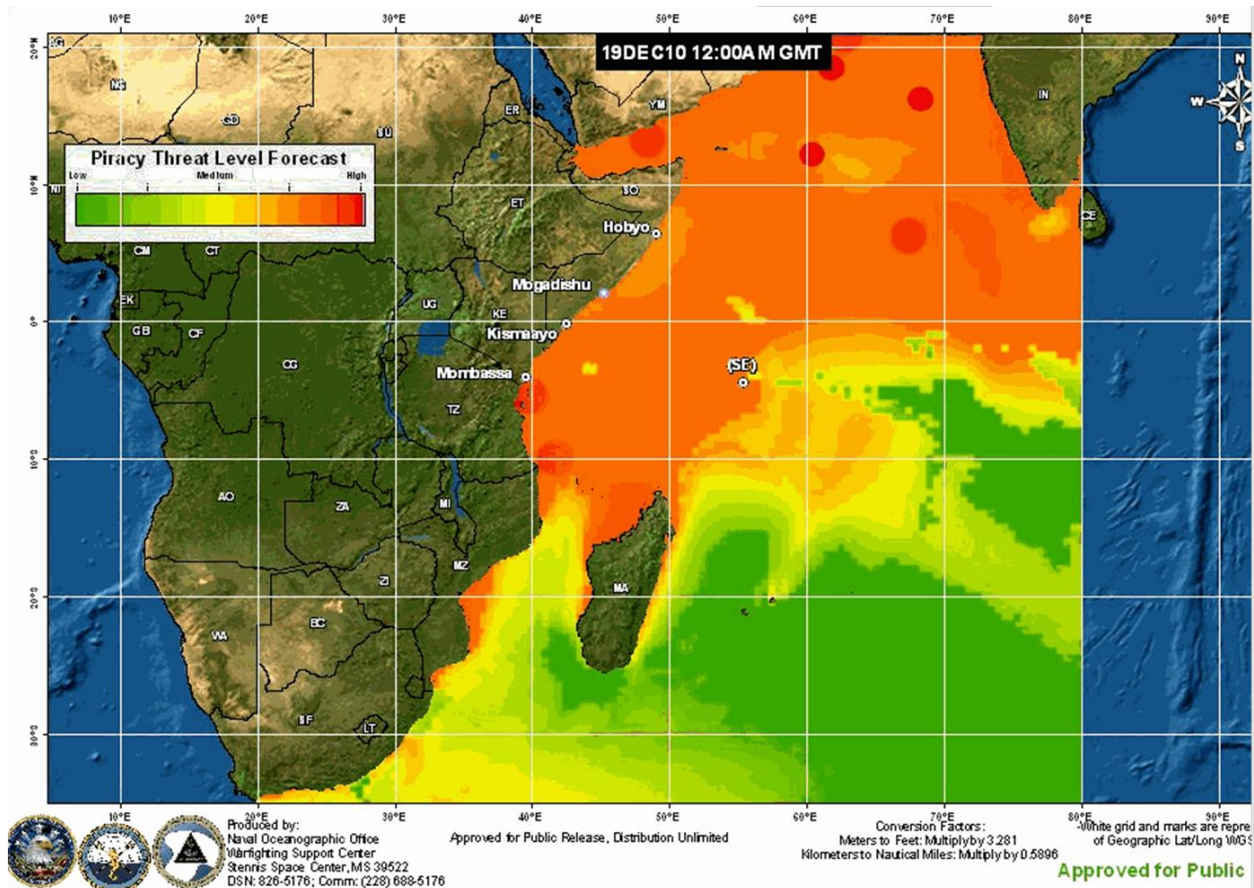
(U) Table 1 is a summary of piracy events that have occurred this week, this month, and current/prior year.

3. (U) Outlook

A. (U) Summary

(U) Over the next week, weather is expected to be calmer than normal for the monsoon season, creating conditions that are conducive to small boat activity.

B. Forecast for the Week of 16 DEC 2010 – 22 DEC 2010



(U) **Figure 2. Likelihood of Pirate Activity (Graphic courtesy of the Naval Oceanographic Office Warfighting Support Center).**

(U) In the graphic above, green represents a reduced likelihood of pirate activity while red represents a high likelihood of pirate activity.

(U) Appendix

(U) Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental authorities in lawful pursuit of their authority.

(U) Terms of Reference

(U) The following terms are adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis:

- **(U) Attempted Boarding** - Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- **(U) Blocking** - Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- **(U) Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- **(U) Firing Upon** - Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- **(U) Hijacking** - Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- **(U) Kidnapping** - Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- **(U) Robbery** - Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- **(U) Suspicious Approach** - All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

(U) Sourcing

(U) Information contained in this report is derived through direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources:

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark
- BBC News
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Latitude38.com (LAT) website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local Media (LM)
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), U.S.
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Brussels

- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

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